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Verse is not the effect of sudden thought; but this hinders not, that sudden thought may be represented in verse, since those thoughts must be higher than nature can raise without premeditation. *Dryden on Dramatick Poetry.*

PREMICES. *n. f.* [*primitivæ*, Lat. *premier*, Fr.] First fruits. A charger, yearly filled with fruits, was offered to the gods at their festivals, as the *premier* or first gathering. *Dry.*

PREMIER. *adj.* [French.] First; chief. The Spaniard challengeth the *premier* place, in regard of his dominions. *Camden's Remains.*

Thus families like realms, with equal fate,
Are sunk by *premier* ministers of state. *Swift.*

To **PREMISE**. *v. a.* [*præmissus*, Lat.]

1. To explain previously; to lay down premises. The apostle's discourse here is an answer upon a ground taken; he *premisseth*, and then infers. *Burnet.*
I *premise* these particulars, that the reader may know I enter upon it as a very ungrateful task. *Addison.*

2. To send before the time. Not in use. O let the vile world end,
And the *premiss'd* flames of the last day
Knit earth and heav'n together! *Shakspeare, Henry VI.*

To **PREMERIT**. *v. a.* [*præmerere*, Lat.] To deserve before. They did not forgive Sir John Hotham, who had so much *premerited* of them. *King Charles.*

PREMISS. *n. f.* [*præmissa*, Lat. *premisses*, Fr.]

1. Propositions antecedently supposed or proved. They infer upon the *premisses*, that as great difference as commodiously may be, there should be in all outward ceremonies between the people of God, and them which are not his people. *Hosker, b. iv. f. 7.*

This is so regular an inference, that whilst the *premisses* stand firm, it is impossible to shake the conclusion. *Decay of Piety.*

She study'd well the point, and found
Her foes conclusions were not found,
From *premisses* erroneous brought,
And therefore the deduction's nought. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. In low language, houses or lands; as, I *was upon the premisses*.

PREMISS. *n. f.* [*præmissum*, Lat.] Antecedent proposition. This word is rare in the singular.

They know the major or minor, which is implied, when you pronounce the other *premiss* and the conclusion. *Watts.*

PREMIUM. *n. f.* [*præmium*, Lat.] Something given to invite a loan or a bargain.

No body cares to make loans upon a new project; whereas men never fail to bring in their money upon a land-tax, when the *premium* or interest allowed them is suited to the hazard they run. *Addison's Freeholder, N^o 23.*

People were tempted to lend, by great *premiums* and large interest; and it concerned them to preserve that government, which they had trusted with their money. *Swift's Miscel.*

To **PREMONISH**. *v. a.* [*præmonere*, Lat.] To warn or admonish beforehand.

PREMONITION. *n. f.* [from *premonish*.] Previous information. After these *premonitions*, I will come to the comparison itself. *Watson's Architecture.*

PREMONITION. *n. f.* [from *premonish*.] Previous notice; previous intelligence.

What friendly *premonitions* have been spent
On your forbearance, and their vain event. *Chapman.*

How great the force of such an erroneous persuasion is, we may collect from our Saviour's *premonition* to his disciples, when he tells them, that those who killed them should think they did God service. *Decay of Piety.*

PREMONITORY. *n. f.* [from *præ* and *monere*, Lat.] Previously advising.

To **PREMONSTRATE**. *v. a.* [*præmonstrare*, Lat.] To show beforehand.

PREMUNTURE. *n. f.* [Latin.]

1. A writ in the common law, whereby a penalty is incurable, as infringing some statute.

Præmunire is now grown a good word in our English laws, by tract of time; and yet at first it was merely mistaken for a premonere. *Bramhall against Hobbs.*

Woolsey incurred a *præmunire*, forfeited his honour, estate and life, which he ended in great calamity. *South.*

2. The penalty so incurred.

3. A difficulty; a distress. A low ungrammatical word.

PREMUNITION. *n. f.* [from *præmunio*, Lat.] An anticipation of objection.

To **PREMUNIMATE**. *v. a.* [*præmunire*, Lat.] To forename. He you would found,

Having ever seen, in the *præmunimate* crimes,
The youth, you breathe of, guilty. *Shakspeare, Hamlet.*

PREMUNITION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *munio*, Lat.] The privilege of being named first.

The watry productions should have the *præmunition*; and they of the land rather derive their names, than nominate those of the sea. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PRONOTION. *n. f.* [*prænotion*, Fr. *præ* and *notio*, Lat.] Foreknowledge; prescience.

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The hedgehog's preference of winds is so exact, that it floppeth the north or southern hole of its nest, according unto *preference* of these winds ensuing. *Brown.*

PRENTICE. *n. f.* [contracted, by colloquial licence, from *apprentice*.] One bound to a master, in order to instruction in a trade.

My accuser is my *prentice*, and when I did correct him for his fault, he did vow upon his knees he would be even with me. *Shakspeare, Henry VI.*

PRENTICESHIP. *n. f.* [from *prentice*.] The servitude of an apprentice.

He serv'd a *prenticeship*, who sets up shop,
Ward try'd on puppies, and the poor his drop. *Pope.*

PRENUNCIATION. *n. f.* [*prænuncio*, Lat.] The act of telling before.

PREOCCUPANCY. *n. f.* [from *preoccupare*.] The act of taking possession before another.

To **PREOCCUPATE**. *v. a.* [*preoccupare*, Fr. *præoccupo*, Lat.]

1. To anticipate. Honour aspireth to death; grief flieth to it; and fear *preoccupeth* it. *Bacon.*

2. To prepossess; to fill with prejudices. That the model be plain without colours, left the eye *preoccupate* the judgment. *Watson's Architecture.*

PREOCCUPATION. *n. f.* [*preoccupation*, Fr. from *preoccupare*.]

1. Anticipation. 2. Prepossession. 3. Anticipation of objection.

As if, by way of *preoccupation*, he should have said; well, here you see your commission, this is your duty, these are your discouragements; never seek for evasions from worldly afflictions; this is your reward, if you perform it; this is your doom, if you decline it. *South's Sermons.*

To **PREOCCUPY**. *v. a.* To prepossess; to occupy by anticipation or prejudices.

I think it more respectful to the reader to leave something to reflections, than *preoccupy* his judgment. *Arbutnot.*

To **PREOMINATE**. *v. a.* [*præ* and *ominor*, Lat.] To prognosticate; to gather from omens any future event.

Because many ravens were seen when Alexander entered Babylon, they were thought to *preminate* his death. *Brown.*

PREOPINION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *opinio*, Lat.] Opinion antecedently formed; prepossession.

Diet holds no solid rule of selection; some, in indistinct voracity, eating almost any; others, out of a timorous *preopinion*, refraining from very many things. *Brown.*

To **PREORDAIN**. *v. a.* [*præ* and *ordinare*.] To ordain beforehand.

Sin is the contrariety to the will of God, and if all things be *preordained* by God, and so demonstrated to be willed by him, it remains there is no such thing as sin. *Hammond.*

Few souls *preordain'd* by fate,
The race of gods have reach'd that envy'd state. *Johnson.*

PREORDINANCE. *n. f.* [*præ* and *ordinance*.] Antecedent decree; first decree. Not in use.

These lowly courtesies
Might stir the blood of ordinary men,
And turn *preordination* and first decree
Into the law of children. *Shakspeare, Julius Caesar.*

PREORDINATION. *n. f.* [from *preordinare*.] The act of preordinating.

PREPARATION. *n. f.* [*preparatio*, Lat. *preparation*, Fr. from *preparare*.]

1. The act of preparing or previously fitting any thing to any purpose.

Nothing hath proved more fatal to that due *preparation* for another life, than our unhappy mistake of the nature and end of this. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

2. Previous measures. I will shew what *preparation*: there were in nature for this great dissolution, and after what manner it came to pass. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

3. Ceremonious introduction. I make bold to press, with so little *preparation*, upon you. — You're welcome. *Shakspeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*

4. The act of making or fitting by a regular process. In the *preparations* of cookery, the most volatile parts of vegetables are destroyed. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

5. Any thing made by process of operation. I wish the chymists had been more sparing, who magnify their *preparations*, inveigle the curiosity of many, and elude the security of most. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

6. Accomplishment; qualification. Out of use. Sir John, you are a gentleman of excellent breeding, authentic in your place and person, generally allowed for your many warlike, courtlike and learned *preparations*. *Shakspeare.*

PREPARATIVE. *adj.* [*preparativus*, Fr. from *preparare*.] Having the power of preparing or qualifying.

Would men have spent toilsome days and watchful nights in the laborious quest of knowledge *preparative* to this work. *South's Sermons.*

PREPARATIVE.

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PREPARATIVE. *n. f.* [*preparativus*, Fr. from *preparare*.]

1. That which has the power of preparing or previously fitting. They tell us the profit of reading is singular, in that it serveth for a *preparative* unto sermons. *Hosker.*

My book of advancement of learning may be some *preparative* or key for the better opening of the insaturation. *Bacon.*

Rejoic'dness in sin can, with no reason, be imagined a *preparative* to remission. *Decay of Piety.*

2. That which is done in order to something else. The interies, which have ensued, may be yet, through thy mercy, *preparatives* to us of future blessings. *K. Charles.*

Such a temper is a contradiction to repentance, as being founded in the destruction of those qualities, which are the only dispositions and *preparatives* to it. *South's Sermons.*

What avails it to make all the necessary *preparatives* for our voyage, if we do not actually begin the journey. *Dryden.*

PREPARATIVELY. *adv.* [from *preparative*.] Previously; by way of preparation.

It is *preparatively* necessary to many useful things in this life, as to make a man a good physician. *Hale.*

PREPARATORY. *adj.* [*preparatorius*, Fr.]

1. Antecedently necessary. The practice of all these is proper to our condition in this world, and *preparatory* to our happiness in the next. *Tillotson.*

2. Introductory; previous; antecedent. *Preparatory*, limited and formal interrogatories in writing preclude this way of occasional interrogatories. *Hale.*

Rains were but *preparatory*, the violence of the deluge depended upon the disruption of the great abyss. *Burnet.*

To **PREPARE**. *v. a.* [*preparo*, Lat. *preparer*, Fr.]

1. To fit for any thing; to adjust to any use; to make ready for any purpose.

Patient Octavia, plough thy visage up
With her *prepared* nail. *Shakspeare, Ant. and Cleop.*

Confound the peace establish'd, and *prepare*
Their souls to hatred, and their hands to war. *Dryden.*

Our souls, not yet *prepar'd* for upper light,
Till doomday wander in the shades of night. *Dryden.*

The beams of light had been in vain display'd,
Had not the eye been fit for vision made;
In vain the author had the eye *prepar'd*
With so much skill, had not the light appear'd. *Blackmore.*

2. To qualify for any purpose. Some preachers, being *prepared* only upon two or three points of doctrine, run the same round. *Addison.*

3. To make ready beforehand. There he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may *prepare* a city for habitation. *Psalms ciii. 36.*

Now *prepare* thee for another fight.
He took the golden compasses, *prepar'd*
In God's eternal store, to circumscribe
This universe. *Milton.*

4. To form; to make. The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place *prepared* of God to feed her. *Revs. xii. 6.*

He hath founded it upon the seas, and *prepared* it upon the floods. *Psalms xxiv. 2.*

5. To make by regular process: as, be *prepared* a medicine.

To **PREPARE**. *v. a.*

1. To take previous measures. Efficacy is a power of speech, which represents to our minds the lively ideas of things so truly, as if we saw them with our eyes; as Dido *preparing* to kill herself. *Peucham.*

2. To make every thing ready; to put things in order. Go in, sirrah, bid them *prepare* for dinner. *Shakspeare.*

The long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a *preparing*. *1 Peter iii. 2.*

3. To make one's self ready; to put himself in a state of expectation.

PREPARE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Preparation; previous measures. Not in use.

In our behalf
Go levy men, and make *prepare* for war. *Shakspeare.*

PREPAREDLY. *adv.* [from *prepared*.] By proper precedent measures.

She *preparedly* may frame herself
To th' way she's forc'd to. *Shakspeare, Ant. and Cleop.*

PREPAREDNESS. *n. f.* [from *prepared*.] State or act of being prepared; as, he's in a *preparedness* for his final exit.

PREPARER. *n. f.* [from *prepare*.]

1. One that prepares; one that previously fits. The bishop of Ely, the first *preparer* of her mind to receive such a doleful accident, came to visit her. *Watson.*

2. That which fits for any thing. Cold'd grains are an improver of land, and *preparer* of it for other crops. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PREPENSE. *adj.* [*prepensus*, Lat.] Forethought; preconsidered. *Prepared*, continued beforehand: as, *malice prepen-*

To **PREPENDER**. *v. a.* [from *preponderare*.] To outweigh. Through pillars by channelling be seemingly ingrooved to our sight, yet they are truly weakened; and therefore ought not to be the more slender, but the more corpulent, unless appearances *preponder* truths. *Watson's Architecture.*

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PREPONDERANCE. *n. f.* [from *preponderare*.] The state of **PREPONDERANCY**. *outweighing; superiority of weight.*

As to addition of ponderosity in dead bodies, comparing them unto blocks, this occasional *preponderancy* is rather an appearance than reality. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

The mind should examine all the grounds of probability, and, upon a due balancing the whole, reject or receive proportionably to the *preponderancy* of the greater grounds of probability. *Locke.*

Little light boats were the ships which people used, to the sides whereof this fifth remora fastening, might make it swag, as the least *preponderance* on either side will do, and so retard its course. *Grew's Musæum.*

To **PREPONDERATE**. *v. a.* [*preponderare*, Lat.]

1. To outweigh; to overpower by weight. An inconsiderable weight, by distance from the centre of the balance, will *preponderate* greater magnitudes. *Glanvill.*

The triviallest thing, when a passion is cast into the scale with it, *preponderates* substantial blessings. *Gow, of the Tongue.*

2. To overpower by stronger influence. To **PREPONDERATE**. *v. n.*

1. To exceed in weight. He that would make the lighter scale *preponderate*, will not so soon do it, by adding increase of new weight to the emptier, as if he took out of the heavier, what he adds to the lighter. *Locke.*

Unless the very mathematical center of gravity of every system be placed and fixed in the very mathematical center of the attractive power of all the rest, they cannot be evenly attracted on all sides, but must *preponderate* some way or other. *Bentley's Sermons.*

2. To exceed in influence or power analogous to weight. In matters of probability, we cannot be sure that we have all particulars before us, and that there is no evidence behind, which may outweigh all that at present seems to *preponderate* with us. *Locke.*

By putting every argument on one side and the other into the balance, we must form a judgment which side *preponderates*. *Watts.*

PREPONDERATION. *n. f.* [from *preponderare*.] The act or state of outweighing any thing.

In matters, which require present practice, we must content ourselves with a mere *preponderation* of probable reasons. *Watts's Logic.*

To **PREPOSE**. *v. a.* [*proponere*, Fr. *præpono*, Lat.] To put before.

PREPOSITION. *n. f.* [*præpositio*, Fr. *præpositio*, Lat.] In grammar, a particle governing a case.

A *preposition* signifies some relation, which the thing signified by the word following it, has to something going before in the discourse; as, Cesar came *from* Rome. *Clarke's Lat. Gram.*

PREPOSITOR. *n. f.* [*præpositor*, Lat.] A scholar appointed by the master to overlook the rest.

To **PREPOSSESS**. *v. a.* [*præ* and *posse*.] To fill with an opinion unexamined; to prejudice.

She was *prepossest* with the scandal of salivating. *Watts.*

PREPOSSESSION. *n. f.* [from *preposse*.]

1. Preoccupation; first possession. God hath taken care to anticipate and prevent every man to give piety the *prepossession*, before other competitors should be able to pretend to him; and so to engage him in holiness first and then in bliss. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

2. Prejudice; preconceived opinion. Had the poor vulgar rout only, who were held under the prejudices and *prepossessions* of education, been abused into such idolatrous superstitions, it might have been pitied, but not so much wondered at. *South's Sermons.*

With thought, from *prepossession* free, reflect
On solar rays, as they the light respect. *Blackmore.*

PREPOSTEROUS. *adj.* [*præposterus*, Lat.]

1. Having that first which ought to be last; wrong; absurd; perverted.

Put a case of a land of Amazons, where the whole government, publick and private, is in the hands of women: is not such a *preposterous* government against the first order of nature, for women to rule over men, and in itself void? *Bacon.*

Death from a father's hand, from whom I first
Receiv'd a being! 'tis a *preposterous* gift,
An act at which inverted nature starts,
And blushes to behold herself so cruel. *Denham.*

Such is the world's *preposterous* fate;
Amongst all creatures, mortal hate
Love, though immortal, doth create. *Denham.*

By this distribution of matter, continual provision is every where made for the supply of bodies, quite contrary to the *preposterous* reasonings of those men, who expected so different a result. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

The method I take may be censured as *preposterous*, because I thus treat last of the antediluvian earth, which was first in order of nature. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

2. Applied to persons: foolish; absurd. *Preposterous* as! that never read so far
To know the cause why music was ordain'd. *Shakspeare.*

PREPOSTEROUSLY.